GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4442
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS BETWEEN GRP AND RPF
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Reforms Committee (RRC) had recommended in 1983 to coordinate between RPF and GRP to hold periodic meeting at specific intervals;

(b) whether the standing committee on Railways had also noted the neglect of safety and security of the commuting passengers in the trains;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(d) the number of coordination committee meetings held by General Managers and the members of the Railways with the State Chief Secretaries, GRP and RPF and decisions taken in those meeting on the safety and security of the commuting passengers in the trains ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d) Considering the importance of effective coordination between the State Governments and the Railways, for ensuring safe travel to the public. The then Minister of Railways had desired that a High Level Meeting be held. Accordingly, the first High Level Meeting was held on 15.01.2000 to study various matters that affected mutual understanding and cooperation between the Railways and State Governments to recommend steps for improving the same. In order to improve the Safety and security of the passengers travelling by trains, a coordination meeting between Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) was again held on 15.01.2004 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi. In this meeting, discussions on various issues like passengers safety, security, strengthening of RPF and improving transport and communication facilities were held. As per recommendations of the Standing Committee on Railways, RPF has been strengthened by making amendments to the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989. Now RPF has been entrusted with the responsibility to escort passenger trains, protect passenger premises, with power of arrest to officers from the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) and above in offences under the Railways Act, 1989 except sections 150, 151 and 152. In this connection, necessary instructions have been issued to all Zonal Railways to ensure train escorting and Protection of passenger premises. These instructions have come into force w.e.f. 01.07.2004. Such coordination meetings between RPF and GRP are also held at Zonal Railways level regularly to streamline the system. So far, several meetings between Railways and GRP have been held from time to time.